

# The California Dream Act

The recently passed California Dream Acts, comprising new state laws, AB 130 and AB 131, have extended eligibility for certain types of institutional and state aid to students, including undocumented students, who qualify for benefits under another California law, AB 540, which exempts certain students from being required to pay nonresident tuition. The table at <http://ucop.edu/student-affairs/files/dream-act/ca-dream-act-table.pdf> summarizes the types of aid available to students who meet the criteria described in AB 540 and the process for applying for available financial aid. For more information on meeting the criteria for AB 540, see: <http://ucop.edu/student-affairs/policies/universitywide-program-policies-and-guidelines/AB540.html>

## Impact of AB 130 and AB 131 on documented students who meet the criteria in AB 540

In the case of students who are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or who in other documented categories, and who also meet the criteria for AB 540 status, AB 130 and AB 131 make no change in their eligibility to receive federal and institutional aid. However, under AB 130 and AB 131, U.S. these students will newly be considered for state Cal Grants starting with fall 2013.

### Application process for documented students

Documented students meeting AB 540 criteria should continue to file a FAFSA by March 2nd each year to receive priority consideration for UC aid. To be evaluated for a Cal Grant for fall 2013, such students should file a FAFSA and also a Cal Grant GPA verification by March 2, 2013. They will also need to meet the March 2<sup>nd</sup> UC and Cal Grant deadline in subsequent years.

The online FAFSA application is available at: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)  
The Cal Grant GPA verification is available at:  
[www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=1177](http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=1177)

## Impact of AB 130 and AB 131 on undocumented students who meet the criteria for AB 540

UC students who meet the criteria described in AB 540 and who are not U.S. citizens, permanent residents or are not in other documented categories but who do meet the criteria in AB 540 may compete for UC privately-donated

scholarships for which they are qualified in 2012 and beyond as well as UC institutional financial aid for winter/spring 2013 and beyond. In addition, these students will now be considered for state Cal Grants starting with fall 2013.

Please note: Eligibility for federal financial aid is not affected by AB 130 or AB 131. All undocumented students, including students meeting the criteria described in AB 540, are currently not eligible for federal financial aid under federal law. In addition, undocumented students who do not meet AB 540 criteria are not affected by AB 130 or AB 131; they continue to be ineligible for all federal, institutional and state financial aid.

2011-12 application process for undocumented students who meet the AB 540 criteria

These undocumented students should contact their campus financial aid office about the process for applying for available privately-donated scholarships for 2011-12 winter/spring terms.

2012-13 application process for undocumented students who meet the AB 540 criteria

These undocumented students who cannot file a FAFSA should use the California Dream Application to apply for UC institutional aid for 2012-13<sup>1</sup>. The California Dream Application should be available on line at on April 2, 2012. Students are encouraged to submit a California Dream Application as soon as the application becomes available, even if their AB 540 status is established later.

2013-2014 application process for undocumented students who meet the AB 540 criteria:

Commencing January 1, 2013, and before the March 2, 2013 filing deadline, undocumented UC students who meet the AB 540 criteria who cannot file a FAFSA should submit the California Dream Application at [www.caldreamact.org](http://www.caldreamact.org) in order to compete for privately-donated scholarships with a financial need component, UC institutional financial aid, and Cal Grants that will be available commencing in fall 2013. Cal Grant applicants also need to submit a Cal Grant GPA verification available at: [www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=1177](http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=1177)

---

<sup>1</sup> Unless the student's UC campus has provided an alternative financial aid application for use prior to April 2, 2012.

A summary of UC application deadlines, links for the California DREAM Act application, and thumbnail descriptions of associated types of awards and award periods are available for undergraduates at;  
<http://ucop.edu/student-affairs/files/dream-act/ca-dream-act-table.pdf>

And for UC graduate and professional degree students at:  
<http://ucop.edu/student-affairs/files/dream-act/ca-dream-act-table.pdf>

What you need to do to receive benefits under AB 130 and AB 131

A California Dream Application for financial aid will be available on April 2, 2012 at [www.caldreamact.org](http://www.caldreamact.org). Students are encouraged to apply as soon as the application becomes available, even if that happens before they have official confirmation that they meet the UC criteria for AB 540 status.

1. Students who think that they might meet the criteria described in AB 540 but who cannot file a FAFSA should submit a California Dream Act Application as soon as possible after it becomes available on April 2, 2012, and by March 2<sup>nd</sup>, each year thereafter, unless they become able to file a FAFSA.  
[www.caldreamact.org](http://www.caldreamact.org)

Students who think that they might meet the criteria described in AB540 and are U.S. citizens, permanent residents or are in other documented categories and are also able to file a FAFSA, should submit a FAFSA by March 2<sup>nd</sup> of each year: [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov)

2. Once students accept an offer of admission at a UC campus, they will be asked to submit a Statement of Legal Residence (SLR). Students who receive nonresident decisions from the campus residence deputy, then should request the a UC Application for AB 540 Status For Benefits under AB 130 and AB 131 or a California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request or a University of California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Application and Affidavit, all of which are available from the UC campus Registrar office or campus website.

## Information on the University of California AB 540 Nonresident Tuition Exemption

Under AB 540, certain students are eligible to receive an exemption from nonresident supplemental tuition. AB 540-eligible students pay in-state tuition and fees only and not the additional nonresident supplemental tuition charged to nonresidents; however, they remain classified as nonresidents at UC. In 2011-2012, nonresident supplemental tuition for undergraduates at the University of California was \$22,878. UC students enrolled in self-supporting programs are not subject to paying nonresident supplemental tuition and are not eligible for this AB 540 Nonresident Tuition Exemption.

Who is eligible for the tuition exemption?

Students otherwise subject to systemwide nonresident supplemental tuition charges who meet the following criteria are eligible for the AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption:

- Attended a high school in California for three or more years, and
- Graduated from a high school in California, received a High School Equivalency Certificate issued by the California State GED Office, or received a Certificate of Proficiency resulting from the California High School Proficiency Examination. Note that, beginning in 2006, graduation from a California public high school requires that students pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).
- In addition, students who meet these criteria but do not have legal immigration status must certify that they are taking steps to legalize their immigration status or will do so as soon as they are eligible, if applicable.

- Nonimmigrant students are not eligible for this exemption. Nonimmigrants include, but are not necessarily limited to, students holding visas in one of the following categories: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, TN/ TD, TWOV and NATO.

Does the applicant's high-school enrollment have to be at the same California school for three consecutive years?

No. The three years need not be consecutive nor completed at a single high school in California. For example, if a student attended ninth grade at a middle or high school in California, left the state to attend 10th grade and returned to attend a qualified high school in California to complete 11th and 12th grades and graduates, that student would meet the requirement of three years of high school attendance in California.

Is ninth grade included in the definition of high school if it is attended at a middle school?

Yes. For purposes of eligibility for the AB 540 Nonresident Tuition Exemption, enrollment in the ninth grade, whether at a middle or a high school, counts toward the California high school attendance criterion.

Does it matter how long ago a student graduated from high school?

No, the date of graduation does not affect a student's eligibility for the AB 540 Nonresident Tuition Exemption.

For how long is a student eligible to receive this exemption?

There is no cap on the number of years a student can receive this exemption. Eligibility continues as long as the student meets the criteria or until the university no longer offers this exemption.

How does a student apply for the exemption?

The University of California will accept a properly completed California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request or the University of California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Application and Affidavit, both of which are available at campus registrars' offices or websites. Students should complete and submit the form after they have submitted their Statement of Legal Residence to the campus residence deputy at the Office of the Registrar and have received a nonresident classification from that office. Once a student has been determined to be eligible for the exemption by the campus residence deputy, that student need not reapply for the exemption as long as he or she is continuously enrolled at a single UC campus.

If a student received this AB 540 non-resident tuition exemption while attending a California State University (CSU) or a California Community College (CCC) campus, does he or she need to apply for the exemption at UC?

Yes. Information about specific student eligibility for this exemption is not shared among the California public post-secondary education systems. A prior CSU or CCC student needs to apply again once he or she is enrolled at UC. Moreover, UC determines eligibility for this exemption independently of prior determinations made by other California post-secondary education systems.

Can obtaining AB 540 status have any effect on a student's eligibility for financial aid?

Yes, students who qualify for AB 540 status are eligible to be considered for more types of financial aid than would otherwise be the case.

See <http://ucop.edu/student-affairs/files/dream-act/ca-dream-act-table.pdf>

## University of California AB 540 Contacts

Campus	Contact	Contact Information
Berkeley	Rose Chan-Gee, Assistant Registrar	(510) 642-8193 or <a href="mailto:rcg@berkeley.edu">rcg@berkeley.edu</a>
Davis	Chris Hendrix-Chupa or Joanne Madril, Residence Deputies	(530) 752-5029 or (530) 752-4749 residence deputy@ucdavis.edu
Irvine	John Lapuz, Residence Officer	(949) 824-6129 regres@uci.edu
Los Angeles	Deborah Bolton and Ana Ibarra-Abu Malhi, Residence Deputies	(310) 825-3447 dbolton@registrar.ucla.edu aibarra@registrar.ucla.edu
Merced	Angelica Guillen, Assistant Registrar	(209) 228-2734 registrar@ucmerced.edu
Riverside	Kendra McCann, Residency Affairs Officer	(951) 827-5970 kendra.mccann@ucr.edu
San Diego	Donna DeAngelis-Blaine, Residency Deputy	residence deputy@ucsd.edu
San Francisco	Jina Shamim, Associate Registrar and Residence Deputy	(415) 4768850 jina.shamim@ucsf.edu
Santa Barbara	Michael Basile, Residence Deputy	(805) 893-3033 residency@sa.ucsb.edu
Santa Cruz	Gloria Lozano, Residence Deputy	(831) 459-2709 reg_fees@ucsc.edu